

Approved: May 1, 2014

**Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, February 6, 2014
Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

Attendance

Commissioners Present: John Becker, Steve Cardon, Kris Dighe, Alicia Hosmer, Clark Reed and Lea Rosenbohm

Commissioners Absent: Lydia Han, Beri Kravitz

M&C Liaison: Councilmember Julie Palakovich Carr

Guests: Mark Charles, Environmental Management;

Amanda Matheny, Prospective Commissioner

Justin Ostry, Prospective Commissioner

Jerry Kashatus, Prospective Commissioner

Ryan Marcheschi, City Resident

Stephanie Reddick, City Resident

John Mosheim, City Resident

Note: Rockville Cable Channel 11 interviewed several Commissioners prior to the beginning of the meeting for a segment promoting the work of the Commission.

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:32 pm by Chair Reed.

Approval of the December 5, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the December 5, 2013 meeting minutes were deferred to the March 2014 meeting. There are no meeting minutes for the January 2014 meeting since a quorum did not occur.

Prospective Commissioner Candidates

There are currently six candidates that have submitted *Expression of Interest* forms to serve on the Commission. At present, the Commission has two vacancies. Three candidates were interviewed at the January meeting. Three more were interviewed during this meeting. A decision was deferred to an executive session scheduled for later in the agenda (see below).

Mayor and Council Liaison

Councilmember Julie Palakovich Carr outlined her additional liaison responsibilities including work with the Bike Advisory Committee, Animal Matters, and representing the City on the COG environment committee. Ms. Carr indicated that the Bike Committee may be interested in sharing the Hometown Holidays Booth (on Sunday); and that Wednesday, March 12 was a public meeting on the City's Master Bike Plan. Ms. Carr also indicated her interest in starting a food composting pilot in the City. She also discussed relooking at the Forest Protection Ordinance, Street Tree pruning, renewable energy at City facilities, alternative fuel vehicles in the City's fleet, and, starting in the spring, the likelihood that some future Mayor and Council meetings will be held in the community. Finally she noted that the Mayor planned on meeting with all of the Commission and Board Chairs soon.

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Environmental Professionals Event

On Wednesday, April 9, 2014, the Croydon Creek Nature Center is hosting a green lecture on Climate Change from 6:30-8:00. The Center has invited the Commission to co-sponsor the event. After discussion, Dighe moved and Hosmer seconded a motion to co-sponsor the lecture. The motion passed 6-0-0. The Commission will create a Trifold brochure on the Commission's mission and use it as a handout that evening. The Outreach Committee will notify "Bethesda Green" and the "Mid Atlantic Environmental Professionals Association" of the event. All Commissioners are also invited to attend. Dighe moved and Rosenbohm seconded a motion to spend up to \$100 to promote the event. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Hometown Holidays Planning

After an initial discussion, Dighe moved and Becker seconded a motion to screen the recycling film *Trashed* during Hometown Holidays. The motion passed 6-0-0. The film producer may be able to arrange a speaker to accompany the film, at least for one of the two days. Mark Charles will confirm that the Recreation and Parks Department will fund the film rental. The film will be shown on Friday evening, May 23, 2014 in City Hall and several times on Saturday, May 24, ideally in a conference room in the Rockville Library.

Environmental Management Report

Mark Charles reminded the Commission that the deadline for considering Environmental Excellence Awards for the April 21 2014 Mayor and Council meeting is the March 6, 2014 Commission meeting; and that all Commissioners should consider nominating deserving recipients.

Mr. Charles also pointed out that the annual Earth Month/Earth Day proclamation would be taken up by the Mayor and Council at its meeting on March 31, and that all Commissioners were invited to attend.

New Business Items

Community Solar Legislation White Paper

Chair Reed noted that the Community Solar legislation had been introduced in the Senate as SB 786, and that a similar bill was expected in the House. By consensus, the Commission determined it should testify in favor of these bills. It was acknowledged that the Mayor and Council would need to authorize testimony by the Commission itself (vs individual residents). Chair Reed volunteered to bring the issue to the attention of the Mayor and Council at an upcoming meeting.

Alternative Energy

There was a brief discussion of the *Clean Currents* bankruptcy announced on Friday, January 31, 2014.

Residential Environmental Tips

There was discussion encouraging the Commission and the Environmental Management staff to draft energy and sustainable practice tips in Rockville Reports as a continuous reminder to residents of their opportunities. It was also suggested that these tips calculate the energy or pollution saved through these actions as further motivation to take them on.

Executive Session

It was decided that Clark Reed should continue to serve as chair of the Commission for another year.

The previous recommendation for the Mayor to nominate and the Council to appoint Ming Hu as Commissioner was unanimously ratified by the Commission. The Commission also unanimously agreed to recommend that the Mayor nominate and the Council appoint Amanda Matheny as Commissioner (Note: These two appointments were made at the Mayor and Council meeting on February 24, 2014).

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 10:10 pm.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Thursday, March 6, 2014**. This meeting will be held in the Diamondback Conference Room of the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland. The public is invited to attend.